

REMARKSPending Claims

Applicants have added new claims 47-53 and have amended claims 23, 27, 29, 30, 34 and 35. Accordingly, claims 21-53 are pending. New claims 47-53 are dependent claims and are supported by the disclosure beginning at page 20, line 21 of the specification.

35 USC § 103

Claims 21-22, 24-28, 30-33, 38 and 41-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Ninomiya, U.S. Patent No. 5,764,968. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that Ninomiya discloses that a part of main memory is able to be hot plugged. See page 3 of the Office Action, lines 7-10, with respect to the rejection of claim 21, for example. Applicants disagree with this assertion. The main memory 13 "comprises a system memory 131 and an expanded memory 132 mounted by the user as needed." See col. 2, lines 37-38 and col. 4, lines 25-26 of the reference. However, the reference does not specifically disclose or suggest to one having ordinary skill in the art that the expanded memory 132 would be hot added or hot-plugged, as required by each of the independent claims.

Rather, the Office Action cites another memory disclosed in Ninomiya, presumably that of a PC card, etc. (not the expanded memory 132) that would be connected through card dock 40 as "part of main memory" that "is able to be hot plugged." The memory of a PC card, etc. and the second main memory claimed by Applicants are not equivalent. In particular, the reference states that the card dock 40 is an expansion unit and is connected to the docking connector 10 of the computer main body (col. 8, lines 46-48 of Ninomiya). The PCI-DS (Peripheral Component Interconnect-Docking Station) bridge unit 18 is used as an interface between the internal PCI bus 2 and the docking station 30 or card dock 40. Therefore, any memory connected through the docking station or card dock is not main memory, even though it may be hot added.

The EEPROM 34 (for docking station 30) or EEPROM 43 (for card dock 40) of Ninomiya is relied upon in the Office Action for disclosing the claimed non-volatile storage that stores information of the part of main memory to be hot plugged. It does not store such information. EEPROM 34 or 43 stores information about the device to be added to the expansion slot of the docking station or the card reader, such as a PC card, etc. The information stored in the EEPROM 34 or 43 is not related to the expanded memory 132 of Ninomiya that is relied upon in the Office Action as the second memory claimed by

Applicants in claim 21 or the second main memory of claims 26 and 33.

The Office Action states that a processor/control gate unit 23 can access the EEPROM 34 or 43 for hot insertion information. Applicants agree. However, the claims require that the processor acquires the information stored in the non-volatile storage about the memory to be hot added, and Ninomiya is silent with respect to disclosing whether the processor 11 acquires the information read by the processor/control gate unit 23 when it accesses the EEPROM 34 or 43. Accordingly, the reference falls short of disclosing a processor that acquires information stored in a non-volatile storage about a memory to be hot added, as set forth in the claimed combination of each of the independent claims.

The Office Action further states that the EEPROM can be accessed by different I/O units within the system for data updating/modification. See page 4, lines 11-12 of the Office Action. Applicants disagree. Ninomiya discloses that the I/O control gate 23 can access the EEPROM 34 or 43 as set forth in Col. 7, lines 26-28 and 48-52 of the reference. However, Ninomiya does not disclose that different I/O units access the EEPROM 34 or 43. Accordingly, the conclusion, as set forth in the Office Action (page 4, lines 13-22) is unsupported, i.e. there is no support for concluding that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the

art to allow the processor to access and read the hot insertion information in the EEPROM prior to the initialization of the I/O device so that the processor or gate control unit 23 could complete its current operation tasks and save critical operating data instead of performing the access and read steps after the initialization of the I/O device.

Applicants note that several statements are made in the rejection that certain elements of the claimed combination are shown in the reference. For example, the claims require that the second information be stored in the EEPROM so that it is capable of being accessed by the processor before initialization of the I/O device. Further, the reference discloses adding "an expanded memory", however the reference does not specifically disclose or suggest to one having ordinary skill in the art that the expanded memory would be hot added or hot-plugged as is required. Further, the Office Action states that a device added through the card dock would be equivalent to the second memory or second main memory that is claimed by Applicants. The rejection builds upon these statements and, therefore, the conclusions of obviousness are not supported by the disclosure of the reference. Claims 21-22, 24-28, 30-33, 38 and 41-46 are not rendered obvious by Ninomiya for the foregoing reasons. Accordingly, the reference does not support the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,
reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



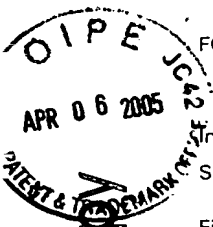
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FORM PTO-1083

PATENT

Case Docket No. H-754-02

In RE application of H. MURAYAMA et al

Serial No.: 10/062,503

Group Art Unit: 2186

Filed: February 5, 2002

Examiner: TUAN V. THAI

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application.

- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
- ☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
- ☐ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(COL. 1)		(COL. 2)		(COL. 3)
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For		Present Extra
Total	* 33	Minus	** 26	=	7
Indep.	* 3	Minus	*** 3	=	0

☐ First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims

SMALL ENTITY	
Rate	Additional Fee
x 9	\$
x 42	\$
+ 140	\$
Total	\$

OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
Rate	Additional Fee
x 18	\$ 350
x 84	\$ 0
+ 280	\$ 0
Total	\$ 350

- * If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write '0' in Col. 3.
- ** If the 'Highest Number Previously Paid For' IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write '20' in this space.
- *** If the 'Highest Number Previously Paid For' IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write '3' in this space.
- The 'Highest Number Previously Paid For' (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box in Col. 1 of a prior Amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

- ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-1417 in the amount of \$ _____.
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- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.
- ☒ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☒ Any Extension of Time fees that are necessary, which are hereby requested if necessary.

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